ffers International Money Order Service with various countries for several years now and : has arrangements to receive money orders from 27 countries for payment in India. Outward money orders service is available for Nepal and Bhutan only.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

BSNL expansion plan

1029. SHRI N.R. GOVFNDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND NFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether there is inordinate delay in carrying out BSNL expansion plans;

if so, the details thereof;

whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report has pointed lut that BSNL failed to select the suppliers for a major expansion of cellular mobile telephone lervice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and (e) the steps taken by

BSNL to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER" OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a)and(b)No, Sir. BSNL has)een continuously expanding its telecom network. However, there is some delay in expansion)f GSM mobile service and Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX). The reasons are detailed below:

(i) Procurement of GSM Mobile Equipment—The procurement process for major expansion plan has been delayed by about 6 months due to filling of court case by one of the bidders against its disqualification.

(ii) Procurement of TAX Equipment—Earlier BSNL was deploying Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) TAX Equipment. With the fast changes in technology. Next Generation Network (NGN) has been planned for induction in place of TDM TAX during 2007-08. Since NGN is a new technology, vendors/manufacturers supplying this equipment have yet to obtain technology approval in India. Therefore, there is some delay in expansion of TAX network.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. CAG has observed that there were delays at every stage of finalization of the tender of procurement of GSM Mobile Equipment. They have further observed that due to delays there has been loss of opportunity of adding subscribers to the network.

(e) The procurement process of GSM Mobile Equipment has since been concluded with apceptance of Advance Purchase Order (APO) by the L-1 bidder and the capacities are Expected to be progressively available form last quarter of this financial year.

Post Offlces in Andhra Pradesh

1030. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 30,000 villages in the State of Andhra Pradesh do not have Post Offices;